



Orange County Board of Education

Resolution in support of:

SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL CALENDAR

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Statutes give local boards of education powers of supervision and control of local school systems; and

WHEREAS, local control over establishing school calendars is an integral component of school system supervision and administrative powers with which local boards of education have been vested; and

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina is one of only two states with a state law dictating both the start and end of the school year; and

WHEREAS, the current one-size-fits-all school calendar start date is no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and the end date is no later than the Friday closest to June 11; and

WHEREAS, the State mandated late August start date means high schools do not complete the first semester until mid to late January or have unequal semesters; and

WHEREAS, the current law essentially requires high school students to take first semester exams after the winter break or shortened the first semester by as much as 20 instructional days, which both negatively impacts test scores, according to students and educators; and

WHEREAS, if the first semester is not shortened, the second semester for high schools starts two to three weeks later than community colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, superintendents report that the calendar misalignment makes it nearly impossible for the high school students or recent winter graduates to take courses at a nearby community college or university during the second semester; and

WHEREAS, exams for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes are given on the same day nationwide, and the current calendar law shortens the amount of time North Carolina's students have to learn the material before test day; and

WHEREAS, it is well-documented through multiple studies that children will experience a phenomenon known as summer learning loss, which has a disproportionate impact on low income children; and

WHEREAS, long summer breaks can also negatively impact child nutrition, as low-income children who have access to regular meals at school through the free and reduced priced meal program may not have access to regular meals at home; and

WHEREAS, with little flexibility built into the calendar, scheduling make-up days is extremely challenging; and

WHEREAS, districts facing scheduling challenges due to inclement weather may shorten the number of days in the school year and increase the length of the school day, thereby negatively impacting learning as children reach a point at which they stop effectively absorbing the information they are being given; and

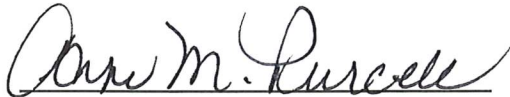
WHEREAS, fall sports and band begin August 1, schedules for extracurriculars have not changed to coincide with the State-mandated school calendar, thus most schools have played multiple athletic contests or participated in school sponsored events before the school year even begins; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education are best equipped to understanding the balancing act of meeting the community's needs and maximizing student success; and

WHEREAS, restoring local control of school calendars will allow local boards of education to best meet the unique educational needs and school calendar preferences of the families, educators, and businesses in our community while allowing for innovative, experimental approaches to improve student achievement.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Orange County Board of Education requests that local control over school calendars be returned to local Boards of Education.

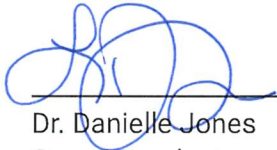
Adopted this, the 22nd day of April, 2024.



Mrs. Anne Purcell
Chair
Orange County Board of Education

4-22-2024

Date



Dr. Danielle Jones
Superintendent
Orange County Schools

4-22-2024

Date